

Agenda Date: 7/29/09 Agenda Item: IIA

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities
Two Gateway Center
Newark, NJ 07102
www.nj.gov/bpu/

ENERGY

MASTRANGELO BRANCHBURG, LLC, Petitioner) ORDER ADOPTING INITIAL DECISION) SETTLEMENT	
v.		
PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY Respondent) BPU DOCKET NO. GC07100786) OAL DOCKET NO. PUC12146-07	

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

BY THE BOARD:

On October 12, 2007, Mastrangelo Branchburg, LLC ("Petitioner") filed a petition with the Board alleging that Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("Respondent") had failed to supply gas at adequate levels and pressure.

After the filing of Respondent's answer, the Board transmitted this matter to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for hearing and initial disposition as a contested case pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq. and N.J.S.A. 52:14F-1 et seq. This matter was assigned to Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") Walter M. Braswell.

While this matter was pending at the OAL, the parties engaged in negotiations and entered into and signed a Stipulation of Settlement ("Stipulation") that was submitted to the ALJ. By Initial Decision issued on June 9, 2009, and submitted to the Board on June 15, 2009, to which the Stipulation was attached and made part thereof, ALJ Braswell found that the Stipulation was voluntary, that its terms fully disposed of all issues in controversy and that it satisfied the requirements of N.J.A.C. 1:1-19.1. Through the Stipulation, Respondent, without agreeing to the merits to the allegations contained in the petition or admitting liability therefore, has agreed to issue a check to Petitioner in the amount of \$2,500.00 within 45 days of the Board's final Order in this matter. In return, Petitioner has agreed not to contest this matter any further and to withdraw its request for a hearing with prejudice.

After review of the Initial Decision and the Stipulation of the parties, the Board HEREBY FINDS that, by the terms of the Stipulation, the parties have resolved all outstanding contested issues in this matter. Accordingly, the Board HEREBY ADOPTS the Initial Decision and the Stipulation of Settlement executed by the parties in their entirety as if fully set forth herein.

DATED: 7/29/09

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

M. Fox JEANNE M. FOX

PRESIDENT

COMMISSIONER

NICHOLAS ASSELTA COMMISSIONER

ÓSEPH L. FÍORDALISO COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public Utilities

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MATRANGELO BRANCHBURG, LLC v. PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY

BPU DOCKET NO. GC07100786 OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 12146-07

SERVICE LIST

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Alexander C. Stern, Esq. PSEG Services Corporation 80 Park Plaza – T5G Newark, New Jersey 07102-4194

Jerome May, Director Carl Dzierzawiec Division of Energy Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, New Jersey 07102

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State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

INITIAL DECISION
SETTLEMENT
OAL DKT. NO. PUC 12146-07

AGENCY DKT. NO. GC0710078€

MASTRANGELO BRANCHBURG, LLC

Petitioner,

V.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY,

Respondent.

Cecilia M.E. Lindenfelser, Esq., appearing on behalf of petitioner

Alexander C. Stern, Esq. appearing on behalf of respondent (PSE&G Services Corporation)

Record Closed: June 9, 2009

Decided: June 9, 2009

BEFORE WALTER M. BRASWELL, ALJ:

On November 23, 2007, this matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for hearing as a contested case pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 to-15 and N.J.S.A. 52:14F 1 to-13. A telephone pre-hearing was conducted on December 19, 2007. A hearing was scheduled for June 12, 2008 which was adjourned due to petitioner's witness not being available. A status conference was conducted on August 14, 2008 wherein the parties agreed to have a device installed in petitioner's premises to measure the gas pressure. The parties also agreed to place this matter on the inactive list through the winter season. A follow up status conference was conducted on May 8, 2009 wherein

4 the parties advised the undersigned that this matter was settled. The Stipulation of Settlement was signed by all parties and submitted to the OAL on June 9, 2009.

I have reviewed the record and terms of the Stipulation of Settlement and FIND:

- The parties have voluntarily agreed to the settlement as evidenced by the signatures of the parties or their representatives.
- The settlement fully disposes of all issues in controversy and is consistent with law.

I CONCLUDE that the agreement meets the requirements of N.J.A.C. 1:1-19.1 and therefore, it is ORDERED that the parties comply with the settlement terms and that these proceedings be and are hereby concluded.

I hereby FILE my initial decision with the BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES for consideration.

This recommended decision may be adopted, modified or rejected by the BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES, which by law is authorized to make a final decision in this matter. If the Board of Public Utilities does not adopt, modify or reject this decision within forty-five (45) days and unless such time limit is otherwise extended, this recommended decision shall become a final decision in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-10.

DATE

Date Received at Agency:

Date Mailed to Parties: lib

WALTER M. BRASWELL, AL

STATE OF NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

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Mastrangelo Branchburg, LLC)
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V.)
) STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT
Public Service Electric & Gas Company	
Respondent.	3

On or about October 26, 2007, Petitioner filed the above-referenced dispute alleging failure to supply gas at adequate levels and pressure pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:6-3.4. Public Service Electric & Gas Company ("PSE&G" or "Respondent") filed an answer to the petition denying the allegations raised and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("NJBPU" or "Board") transmitted the matter to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") as a contested case for adjudication in or about November 2007.

Although the matter was originally scheduled for plenary hearing on June 12, 2008, the parties agreed to work together to investigate the nature of Petitioner's concerns and to hopefully amicably resolve the matter. The Honorable Walter M. Braswell, ALJ issued an Order of Inactivity placing the matter on the inactive list until March 9, 2009 to allow the parties to trouble-shoot the alleged problems through the 2008-09 winter heating season.

In the interests of resolving this matter without further delay, extensive effort and cost, the parties hereto agreed to settle this matter in accordance with the following terms:

- Petitioner agrees not to contest this matter further, and withdraws its hearing request with prejudice.
- 2. Although in no way agreeing with the merits of the allegations expressed in the Petition, in the interest of good customer relations, within forty-five (45) days of a final Board Order approving this Settlement, PSE&G will issue a check to Petitioner in the amount of \$2,500.
- 3. Neither entry into this Stipulation of Settlement nor the payment of the settlement amount by PSE&G shall constitute an admission of liability by PSE&G for any of the allegations set forth in the Petition.

- This agreement is in full settlement of the Petition filed by Petitioner on or about October 26, 2007 and fully disposes of any and all claims stemming therefrom including, but not limited to, property damages claims and subrogation actions.
- The undersigned agree that this Settlement contains mutually balancing and interdependent provisions and is intended to be accepted and approved in its entirety. In the event any particular aspect of this Settlement is not accepted and approved by the Board or modified by the Board, the party that is adversely affected by the modification can either accept the modification or declare this Settlement to be null and void, and the parties shall be placed in the same position that they were in immediately prior to its execution.

LAW OFFICES OF CHARLES A. ROSEN Attorneys for Petitioner

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DATED: 613109 By: (eilla n. 8. M. Cecilia M.E. Lindenfelser/Esq.

MASTRANGELO BRANCHBURG, LLC

DATED: 6/3/09

PSEG SERVICES CORPORATION Attorneys for PSE&G

DATED: 6/4/09

Alexander C. Stern, Esq.

Assistant General Regulatory Counsel





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State of New Jersey OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

33 Washington Street Newark, New Jersey 07102 (973) 648-6008 (973-648-6058)

Robert J. Giordano, ALJ & Manager of Organizational Development ORTES

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Date JUN 1 0 2009

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Re: Initial Decisions for Receipt

We are hereby forwarding to you the following decisions from the office of Administrative Law. Receipt is acknowledged as of the next business day of the date indicated below. Should a listed decision not be included in this batch, please call 973-648-6008.

OAL Docket No. PUC 12146-07			Case Name		
		MASTRAN	MASTrangelo Branch Burg, LLC		
		Branch	Burg,	LLC	
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		and of Public Utilities and Gateway Center			
		Newark, New Jersey 07102			
Date:					
-		Board of Public Utilities			